

MEMORANDUM FOR: ~~Mr. E~~ ~~State~~ *Walsh*

FYI

OCI, OPR, OSR and OER representatives participated in this meeting.

File NIO/USSR

~~8 April 1974~~
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

Office of the Director of Central Intelligence

8 April 1974

Mr. Helmut Sonnenfeldt
Counselor
Department of State
Room 7261

Dear Mr. Sonnenfeldt,

On 3 April you indicated to [] that any new intelligence available concerning Soviet leverage on Syria would be helpful. We convened a discussion on 5 April of Soviet and Middle East experts from INR, DIA, and CIA. The sense of this meeting may have some interim utility:

25X1

-- President Asad decided to risk the disengagement talks with US mediation in the face of Soviet advice and pressure. It is doubtful, however, that Soviet opposition was a major obstacle to Asad's decision to proceed with the talks in Washington.

25X1

-- When Asad goes to Moscow about 10 April, can the Soviets offer him anything likely to persuade him to abandon disengagement talks in Washington for Geneva? A prestigious Syrian economic delegation has preceded Asad to Moscow, but the Syrians have never shown an inclination for a large-scale Soviet economic embrace in the past and this argues against telling leverage from this quarter. While the Soviets may seek to augment their influence in Syria with an additional advanced weapons offer -- perhaps including operationally significant numbers of SCUDs -- the 5 April meeting's consensus appeared to be that a new weapons package would probably not weaken Asad's near-term commitment to disengagement talks in Washington.

25X1

SECRET []

25X1

-- In any case, Asad is likely to hold his present course until he can weigh the results of Shehabi's talks in Washington this week with his reactions to his own discussions in Moscow. However, this assumes -- and over the last few days it has become an increasingly tenuous assumption -- that skirmishing on the Golan does not erupt into full scale hostilities.

25X1

[REDACTED]
Diana Smith
for

[REDACTED]
NIO/USSR

25X1

cc:

Mr. Hyland
Mr. Lodal
Mr. Colby
Adm. dePoix
Mr. Carver
Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. Proctor
Mr. Nelson
NIO/USSR Chron

25X1

25X1